

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04312 180352Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05

/093 W

-----180745Z 126592 /14

R 180238Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, MARR, ECON, ASEAN, ID

SUBJECT: IMPRESSIONS OF BALI SEMINAR ON SOUTHEAST ASIA-U.S.
RELATIONS

REF: JAKARTA 7395

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SEMINAR WAS TWOFOLD: (1) TO DISCUSS THE MEASURE OF U.S. INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. (2) TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER INTEREST BY THE UNITED STATES IN ASEAN PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES. PARTICIPANTS WERE FURNISHED IN ADVANCE AND DURING THE SESSION WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE THOUGHTFUL AND WELL PREPARED POSITION PAPERS WRITTEN BY POLITICIANS AND ACADEMICIANS. AT ALL OF THE SESSIONS THERE WAS THE RHETORIC WHICH NORMALLY ATTENDS SUCH EVENTS, HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCHANGING IDEAS RATHER THAN TAKING ACTION. AT THE CONCLUSION AND AFTER SOME REFLECTION IT APPEARED TO THIS OBERVER THAT:

(I) THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF JOINING TOGETHER FOR THEIR MUTUAL INTEREST;

(II) CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO THAT

END SINCE 1967 WHEN THE EFFORT COMMENCED;

(III) COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVERAL COUNTRIES APPEARED TO BE REASONABLY CANDID;

(IV) THERE IS A COMMON PURPOSE SHARED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS, SUCH BEING TO OBTAIN AT LEAST A REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AS A GROUP, THIS NOT BEING AVAILABLE TO ANY ONE COUNTRY ACTING ALONE;

(V) THE PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO IMPROVE ECONOMICALLY, BUT WITH A CONSTANT AWARENESS OF THE STRENGTH OF THE PRC, USSR AND VIET-NAM;

(VI) THE ASEAN COUNTRIES CLEARLY PREFER A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES TO ANY OTHER ALLIANCE;

(VII) THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. DOMINANCE OR INTENTIONS, BUT THEY FEEL COMPELLED TO SPEAK OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE NATIONALISM, AS ELSEWHERE, IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA;

(VIII) THAILAND IS THE WEAKEST LINK IN THE ASEAN CHAIN;

(IX) BOTH JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA ARE LOGICAL PARTNERS AND BOTH EVIDENCE AN INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH AND ENCOURAGING ASEAN;

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(X) GIVEN ITS COMMITMENTS ON MANY FRONTS AND ITS ROLE AS LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD, ASEAN AND ITS ENDS AND ASPIRATIONS DOES NOT ENJOY A HIGH PRIORITY ON THE LIST OF MATTERS REQUIRING U.S. ATTENTION;

(XI) U.S. INTERESTS, SHORT AND LONG TERM, WILL BE SERVED BY CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ASEAN.

2. AM IN ACCORD WITH REFTTEL FROM AMBASSADOR NEWSOM.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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